

# MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

## Legislative Agenda – 2005

■ **Public Act 350** – Advocating for the interests of our patients by making Blue Cross Blue Shield more responsive, effective, and fair. This includes:

- Protecting Patient Choice legislation
- Legislation to Prohibit All Products Clauses
- Claims Policies and Processing Accountability legislation
- Claims Processing Responsiveness legislation

■ **Medicaid** – Uniting health care entities to achieve the goal of appropriate funding and responsible regulation of the Medicaid program in Michigan by addressing:

- Reimbursement parity with Medicare
- Streamlined administrative processes
- Protection of the health care safety net

■ **Administrative Simplification** – Making health care more affordable by taking unnecessary administrative costs out of the system

■ **Mental Health Parity** – Preventing discrimination in health coverage against those in need of mental health care

■ **Medical Liability** – Preserving existing reforms, as well as seeking legislation, to ensure that patients will continue to have access to their physicians by making liability insurance affordable and available to all medical specialties. This includes issues such as:

- Continuity of insurance
- Maintaining and improving affidavit of merit requirements
- Investigating pre-screening panels and other alternatives to tort system
- Monitor questionable expert witness testimony
- Physician Apology legislation

■ **Health Care for the Uninsured** – Supporting state- and community-based solutions to the growing problem of providing health care to the uninsured

■ **Certificate of Need Reform** – Improving patient access to necessary medical services

■ **Adding Surgical Assistants to the Public Health Code** – Changing the Public Health Code to reflect the current environment with respect to the use of certified surgical assistants

■ **Spousal Non-Liability** – Closing the loophole that currently gives legal protections to anyone who refuses to pay medical expenses incurred by his/her spouse

■ **Oppose legislation expanding the Scope of Practice for Allied and Alternative Health Professionals** – Protecting the health of Michigan's citizens by ensuring that scope of practice continues to be based on education and training for these professionals

■ **Public Health** – Improving Michigan's health through prevention and preparedness.

- Preventing obesity and promoting healthy lifestyles
- Biodefense
- Increased funding for family planning
- Tobacco reduction
- Violence reduction efforts
- Retention of Michigan's Helmet Law
- Improving flu and other vaccination availability

■ **Contract Negotiation and Anti-trust Reform** – Legislation that would allow physicians to advocate for their patients during contract negotiations

■ **Electromyography (EMG) Testing Provisions**  
Reassuring patients by seeking legislation that leaves EMG tests to physicians



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